

SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

February 28, 2012

Under the Rules and Procedures of the Winthrop Town Council, President Gill called the Special Town Council Meeting of Enterprise Funds to order at 6:00PM in the Harvey Hearing Room.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilor Boncore.

ROLL CALL

Councilor DelVento	Present
Councilor Powers	Absent
Councilor Letterie	Present
Councilor Boncore	Present
Councilor Sanford	Absent
Councilor Calla	Present
Councilor Mael	Present arrived at 6:20
Vice President Varone	Absent
Council President Gill	Present

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2012 APR -5 A 10:33
TOWN CLERK

Also, in attendance at the meeting were members of the Citizen's Advisory Committee on Finance they were Robert J. Wynne, Jr., Barbara Anne Flavin, Marc Wallerice, Karin A. Chavis, and Jan Twombly.

President Gill spoke of a Fund that is being set up for the Hobson family who just lost their house due to an explosion. He commended the response of Public Safety. President Gill also spoke of a twelve-year-old neighborhood girl Sierra O'Connell who did some fundraising on her on and he commended her and thanked her for her efforts. If anyone is interested in making donations you can contact pgill@town.winthrop.ma.us and he will pass on your information.

President Gill explained the format for the evening being broken into 3 segments:

- Water/Sewer Enterprise Funds
- Recreation/Rink Enterprise Funds
- Harbor Enterprise Fund

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dave Osborne of Precinct 2 spoke of the MWRA mitigation money referring to Quincy and Capital Planning.

MINUTES

Councilor Boncore made a motion to approve minutes from February 7, 2012 Meeting including the 1st part of Executive Session

2nd by Councilor Letterie
Motion Passes

PRESENTATIONS

Town Manager Mr. McKenna gave an explanation of the planned workshop of the Enterprise Funds and on the rationale of why they were created, how they are doing and how they will be involved in our budget for 2013.

Water & Sewer Enterprise Funds – 6:00pm

Presented by Steven R. Calla, Director of DPW -- [CLICK HERE](#)

CFO Bertino rose to a Point of Information stated the slide is a little different due to a change that was distributed late last week was an estimate this is preliminary.

Public Comment

Mr. Osborne had questions about grant money, debt service and written policy of debt funds. Mr. Calla responded that all these projects are subject to bond authorization, grants, loans and Chapter 90 money. For clarification the Point Shirley Project and the Automatic Meter Read hasn't been discussed yet.

Citizens Advisory Committee on Finance

Ms. Jan Twombly asked for Point of Clarification which have already been bonded and which are proposed, Nahant, Somerset bonded and looking for bonding for Contract 3 Project, Pt. Shirley and Radio Read. Another question regarding shifting salary back to DPW, indirect charge backs. Mr. Calla stated there was reorganization at the DPW. Jan also asked about indirect charge backs and Mr. Wynne also asked about projected assessments for water and sewer.

Ms. Karin Charvis asked why Water went up \$160,000 in this assessment. CFO Bertino said he could get an explanation of why the water went up.

Town Council Questions

Councilor Boncore asked for clarification of other projects. Councilor DelVento stated the issue with the DOR IS our reserves are running close to zero and our reserves are critical. There was a lengthy discussion regarding reserves and what is realistic and having a back up in case of an emergency.

Recreation Enterprise Fund 7:00pm

Presented Sean Driscoll, Director of Parks & Recreation -- [CLICK HERE](#)

Public Comment

None.

Citizens Advisory Committee on Finance Questions

Mr. Marc Wallerice wanted to know how much the rates have gone up and Mr. Driscoll responded stating the rates went up 12% a year, 60% over the last 5 years on core programs. Mr. Wynn wanted to know if there have been any unexpected costs and Mr. Driscoll responded yes with maintenance of his transportation and heating. Ms Barbara Flavin asked if insurance covered the flood and Mr. Driscoll stated they got some of back but not in time for fiscal year.

Town Council Questions

Councilor Letterie had questions about fees, how many parks are we doing over, how many employees and possibly increasing fees. Mr. Driscoll responded that currently Daw Playground is being worked on and that the parks are in tough shape, working with DPW and summer program, he has 3 full time employees who put in extra hours during their peak time from New Year through Spring/Summer. Councilor Mael suggested maybe structuring their money differently; get business to match or sponsors to generate extra cash. Mr. Driscoll's program. Councilor Calla followed up on what Councilor Mael said stating that someone may want to sponsor a day trip for kids. Councilor DelVento inquired about the situation we are in: Do we have enough cap left? Taking fee monies for summer program and backfilling we need to get ahead of it. Mr. Driscoll stated that it is a timing thing with money and these are great questions for the DOR. President Gill encouraged coordination and cooperation and Mr. Driscoll stated we need to work together.

Rink Enterprise Fund 7:30pm

Presented James M. McKenna, Town Manager -- [CLICK HERE](#)

Public Comment

No Comment.

Citizens Advisory Committee on Finance Questions

Mr. Wynne had questions regarding the lawsuit settlement and how does that go back. Mr. McKenna stated there would be recommendations/consideration for the rink and what plan to implement. Ms. Charvis wanted to know if we had a Rink Manager and how did we incur a \$140,000 Light Bill. Mr. Driscoll responded with they didn't receive a bill for a long and once investigated it was discovered that the Rink does not have a physical address and it was never budgeted. CFO Mr. Bertino stated that when the Rink went on its own when we got the bills we were burning more kilowatt that we should have been burning due to the compressor had to burn longer.

Town Council Questions

There was a lengthy discussion about rates. Mr. McKenna stated that these are excellent questions regarding rates and we need to build in our rate structure costs and a little bit of head room, we have to be sensitive to rates so as not to loose customers. Councilor Letterie added next year we will be working with Value League with over 100 youth hockey leagues who are willing to use the Rink next year. Councilor Letterie sees positive changes and would like to add skate sharpening and concessions. Councilor Mael doesn't feel comfortable that this is a good viable move forward. Past Councilor Maggio stated Viking Pride has very famous alumni and asked if we have ever reach out on an annual basis. President Gill stated that was a good point and the presentation has put good light into the challenges and put it out to the people.

Harbor Enterprise Fund 8:00pm

Presented Michael A. Bertino, CFO -- [CLICK HERE](#)

Public Comment

None.

Mr. Larry Bradley of the Harbor Management Committee stated there are issues that need to be addressed with the Pier and the Barge needs to be upgraded and he hopes the Council will put money into the Barge in October. Mr. John Crosby stated the facility is fairly new and as time goes on it will take more and more to keep it looking good and should put money aside.

Citizens Advisory Committee on Finance

Ms. Charvis had questions about the charges. Mr. McKenna stated that we are working on an operating plan budget.

Town Council Questions

There was a discussion regarding rates and fees, dredging, excise fees and keeping a reserve in place. Mr. McKenna state that our rates are below market. We need to incorporate additional costs into the program. President Gill stated good clarity of Harbor Management. Great Meeting.

Motion by Councilor Letterie to suspend Council Rules and cancel meeting of March 6, 2012 due to the election

2nd by Councilor Boncore

Motion Passes

Next regular meeting schedule for March 20, 2012

Councilor Boncore rescheduled Rules and Ordinances meeting for March 13 at 7:00pm.

Councilor DelVento commended the High School Basketball and Hockey Teams.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn by Councilor DelVento

**2nd by Councilor Calla
Motion Passes**

Town Council Meeting Adjourned at approximately 8:41pm

A DVD of this meeting is available from WCAT

Public Documents used in this meeting are available in the Town Manager's Office.

Documents used in this meeting are provided throughout the document as a link.

Water/Sewer Enterprise Funds

Rink/Recreation Enterprise Funds

Harbor Management Enterprise Fund

Respectfully submitted,
Town Council Clerk
Kathleen S. Hickey